THE PORT FOLIO

ENLARGED.

BY OLIVER OLDSCHOOL, ESQ.

"VARIOUS, THAT THE MIND
OF DESULTORY MAN, STUDIOUS OF CHANGE,
AND PLEAS'D WITH NOVELTY, MAY BE INDULGED"
COWPER.

VOL. II.] [No. 7.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 1802.

ORIGINAL PAPERS.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

THE AMERICAN LOUNGER,

BY SAMUEL SAUNTER, ESQ.

No. VI.

THE attention of my brother Loungers is particularly requested to the following letter. I am inclined to think that my correspondent means to quiz us all in a grand style. Allowance must be made for the severity, with which the aged are frequently disposed to contemplate "things as they are;" and this paper will then be acknowledged to contain some truths conveyed in a manner, which, whatever may be thought of its politeness, will at least be confest to be plain and direct.

TO SAMUEL SAUNTER, ESQ.

SIR,

I am a constant reader of the Port-Folio, and there is no part of it that I peruse with more pleasure, or more attention, than the essays of the American Lounger. After this assurance will you be pleased to admit a few remarks, which are opposed to the general deduction in your last number? Will you excuse one, who acknowledges himself advanced into the vale of years, for questioning the justice of the conclusion that the present generation is universally improved?

In your paper, sir, you omit noticing the more solid improvement of the present age in Literature and Philosophy; and confine your attention to our progress in the decencies of life; in the elegance and refinement of our amusements. Though an old man, I am as little disposed as yourself to question the real advances that have been made in the departments first mentioned. I can admit also, that we are improved in some of the minor morals: but, in others, I must contend that we have undergone a great and striking degeneracy.

The subject, sir, to which I particularly allude, is that sordid and stoical apathy, which seems to me the characteristic of too many of the present generation of young men. Insensibility is, apparently, the fashion of the day; and, unless I am greatly mistaken, the general prevalence of such a spirit, far over balances any little advances that may have been made in some other particulars of grace and decorum.

Whence this spirit has originated, it is difficult to say. I well remember, that many years ago, when I was at a public seminary in Europe, whither I had been sent for education, a tolerably numerous class of us, who were engaged in reading Horace, had given to us as a thesis that frequently quoted precept of the festive bard, "Nil admirari." I will neither terrify the young ladies, nor, I might perhaps add, the young gentlemen who peruse your lucubrations, by the unseemly appearance of two lines in a barbarous and unknown language. I shall content myself with presenting them with the translation of Mr. Creech, which exhibits, about as faithful a picture of the spirit and elegance of the Satires of Horace, as the version of Messrs. Sternhold and Hopkins does, of the grandeur and sublimity of the psalms of David. He has thus, to adopt the phrase upon his own title-page, *done* these lines into English,

"Not to admire is all the art I know,
"To make men happy and to keep them so."

In treating this subject, the greater part of us contented ourselves, with a grave paraphrase upon the precept of the bard, and descanted largely upon the evil of excessive admiration. Some few assumed a greater latitude, and made false and malicious applications of the doctrine contained in it; while others openly attacked the position as unfounded. Did the young gentlemen of our days read Horace, I would be apprehensive that the absurdity of which I complain, was caused by too literal an adherence to the maxim that I have quoted. But as few, I may almost say none, of them, have ever troubled their heads about the writings of an old fellow who lived, Heaven knows how many centuries ago, their conduct must be referred to other causes. It is, perhaps with more probability, attributed to an absurd imitation of the leading characters in some modern novels. The supposition derives strength when it is recollected that these are the only volumes with which they are much conversant. One, in particular has been pointed out, (which, as it was written by the authoress of Evelina and Cecilia, I have myself perused,) as containing the archetype of these frigid characters. I mean Sir Sedley Clarendel, in Camilla. But I would implore his copyists to recollect, that Sir Sedley Clarendel is a man of real sense, spirit and information, although obscured by his insufferable affectation; and that the latter qualification without the former, will only entitle them to contempt. Were the assumption of the character confined to those who are equal to Sir Sedley Clarendel in mental endowments, our public places would not much be annoyed by his imitators.

But to whatever cause, this fashionable apathy be referable, its effects are equally to be deprecated. They are not visionary, they meet us in the intercourses of society at every turn. By your own account, Mr. Lounger, you are yourself, a little tainted with this foppery. Pardon the word, for I can scarcely imagine that the indifference so generally assumed by your brethren and contemporaries is really felt. I have frequently observed both at public and private parties, groupes of beauties so exquisite that even age could not behold them without emotion, either sitting down unengaged, or dancing with each other; while the young men, who, I should have thought, would have crowded assiduously round, to obtain a transient glance or an occasional smile, were engaged in another apartment, in the mysteries of Loo, or Vingt-un; or, if the evening were farther advanced, were muddling the small share of brain allotted to them by the vapours of wine, and the smoke of segars. If they have occasionally entered the dancing-room, to participate in two or three dances appears to overcome them entirely, and they sit down, as if fairly exhausted by the exertion. But Mr. Lounger can this be a real excuse? Are the young men of the present day so degenerate a race? In my time it was otherwise. Often have the smiles of an agreeable partner kept me upon my feet for many successive hours, and rendered me alike insensible to fatigue or to want of rest. Even now, although five weeks ago, I celebrated my fifty-ninth birth-day, I think that I could undertake to tire down some of these enervated old gentlemen of twenty.

But the display of this fashionable insensibility is not confined to the ball-room. It appears in the groups of saunterers at the Theatre, who disturb the attention of the audience by walking the lobby in creaking boots, and by talking aloud, during the performance of the finest productions of Genius. It appears in that languid eye, which looks at the stage with the same indifference as if bent on vacancy, which is never animated with pleasure, or moistened with sympathy. It appears in those hands which, unless occupied by a tooth-pick, are crossed on the bosom, or hang lifelessly by the side; and are never raised to encourage or to distinguish by applause, talents, however, brilliant. It appears in that proud contempt of those emotions which dignify our nature, evinced by a laugh, or a sudden whirl out of the box, in scenes where the attention of the feeling spectator is irresistibly arrested, and his judgment suspended between admiration of the poet and the performer.

Connected with this frigid insensibility, is the contempt which is, of late, so generally expressed for every thing, that appears united with *sentiment* and a consequent neglect of, or inattention to the lovely female. There may have existed, it is true, a *cant* of sentiment which was disgusting by its excess, but, in avoiding this, we have fallen into an opposite extreme. Our young men bid fair to become a cold hearted race, prematurely wise. We no longer behold the hectic flush of timid and apprehensive love; we no longer witness that tender respect for the fair, which was the "nurse of manly sentiment." The influence of the female character in softening and refining our manners is now but feebly felt. We seek, in vain for that courtesy which, without being effeminate or obtrusive, dictated those attentions to the fair which gave a charm to the intercourse of social life. Well might the feeling eloquent Burke exclaim that "the age of chivalry, was gone."

This apathy is repugnant to the constitution of nature. It is her ordinance that youth should be ardent, easily imprest and enthusiastic. In them, enthusiasm, even though wrongly dictated, is pardonable, I had almost said, respectable. Advancing years temper its vehemence and give it its right direction; and it then imparts energy to the character. But what energy can be hoped for from the present generation of stoics? And how will that feeble flame, which scarcely warms their bosoms in the spring of youth, resist the frosty winter of age?

Let me then implore the race of young men who are now rising around me, to renounce their absurd and contemptible plans of conduct. Let it not be deemed disgraceful or unmanly to prefer the dance to cards or to the bottle; to seek in female society the most agreeable relaxation from severer pursuits, and to evince a "generous loyalty to the sex." There may be some individuals, to whom the parsimony of nature has denied any other means of rendering themselves conspicuous. I would allow such persons to counteract, as far as possible, by a perseverance in this mode of behaviour, the deficiency of natural or acquired talents. But I would earnestly admonish those, whose endowments are of a superior kind, to renounce a system, in which, every blockhead may be their successful competitor, and to propose to themselves such models only, as unite the charm of real politeness and real feeling with true dignity of character.

I am sir, your humble servant,

SENEX.

THEOLOGY.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

SIR,

MY opponent has attacked me in your forty-sixth number, relative to an interpolation into the scripture, with the same asperity which he exhibited in his first letter. With the same asperity he has again shewn the same uncandid method of reasoning. Because I spoke of *one* interpolation, he intimates that I am going to argue for *others*. I confined myself to *one*, and shall go no further. He seems to think that my letter in your fortieth number, insinuated there was but one manuscript of the epistles of St. John. I wrote, that bishop Burnet, "examined the valuable manuscripts of the New Testament, in Switzerland, and the old and precious manuscript in the Vatican of Rome." By an omission of the press, the letter S was not printed in the word manuscripts, in the former part of the paragraph. I will now fairly transcribe what bishop Burnet has written upon the subject, for the candid judgment of your readers.

He says, "I have taken some pains in my travels to examine all the ancient manuscripts of the New Testament concerning that doubted passage of St. John's epistles, "*There are three that bear witness in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit; and these three are one.*" Bullinger doubted much of it, because he found it not in a Latin manuscript at Zurich, which seems to be about eight hundred years old; for it is written in that hand that began to be used in Charles the Great's time. I turned to the manuscript, and found the passage was not there; but this was certainly the errror or omission of the copier: for before the general epistles in that manuscript, the preface of St. Jerome is to be found, in which he says he was the more exact in that translation that so he might discover the fraud of the Arians, who had struck out that passage concerning the trinity. This preface is printed in Lira's bible, but how it came to be left out by Erasmus, in his edition of that Father's Works, is that of which I can give no account. For as, on the one hand, Erasmus's sincerity ought not to be too rashly censured; so, on the other hand, that preface, being in all the manuscripts ancient or modern, of those bibles that have the other prefaces in them, that I ever yet saw, it is not easy to imagine what made Erasmus not publish it: and it is in the manuscript bibles at Basil, where he printed his edition of Jerome's Works. In the old manuscript bible of Geneva, that seems to be above seven hundred years old, both the preface and the passage are extant, but with this difference from the common editions, which set the verse concerning the Father, the Word, and the Spirit, before that of the Water, the Blood, and the Spirit; which comes after it in this copy. And that I may in this place end all the readings I found of this passage in my travels, there is a manuscript in St. Mark's library in Venice, in three languages, Greek, Latin, and Arabic, that seems not above four hundred years old, in which this passage is not in the Greek, but it is in the Latin set after the other three, with a Sicut to join it to what goes before. And in a manuscript Latin bible in the library of St. Laurence, at Florence, both St. Jerome's preface and this passage are extant: but this passage comes after the other, and is pinned to it with a Sicut, as is that of Venice; yet Sicut is not in the Geneva manuscript. There are two Greek manuscripts of the epistles at Basil that seem to be about five hundred years old, in which though St. Jerome's prologue is inserted, yet this passage is wanting. At Strasburg I saw four very ancient manuscripts of the New Testament in Latin. Three of these seemed to be about the time of Charles the Great, but the fourth seemed to be much ancienter, and may belong to the seventh century: in it neither the prologue nor the place is extant, but it is added at the foot of the page with another hand. In two of the others the prologue is extant, but the place is not; only in one of them it is added on the margin. In the fourth, as the prologue is extant, so is the place likewise; but it comes after the verse of the other three, and is joined to it thus, sicut tres sunt in cælo.

"It seemed strange to me, and it is almost incredible, that in the Vatican library there are no ancient Latin bibles, where, above all other places, they ought to be looked for; but I saw none above four hundred years old. There is, indeed, the famous Greek manuscript of great value, which the Chanoine Shelstrat, who was library keeper, asserted to be one thousand four hundred years old, and proved it by the great similitude of the characters with those that are upon St. Hippolite's statue; which is so evident, that if his statue was made about this time, the antiquity of this manuscript is not to be disputed. If the characters are not so fair, and have not all the marks of antiquity that appear in the king's manuscript at St. James's, yet this has been much better preserved and is more entire. *The passage that has led me into this digression, is not to be found in the Vatican manuscript, no more than it is in the king's manuscript.*"

The following three verses are written in this manner in common bibles, in the fifth chapter of the first epistle of St. John. "6. This is he that came by Water and Blood, even Jesus Christ, not by Water only, but by Water and Blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth Witness, because the Spirit is Truth. 7. For there are three that bear Record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8. And there are three that bear Witness in Earth, the Spirit, and the Water, and the Blood: and these three agree in one."..... Erasmus in his folio edition of the New Testament in Greek omits the seventh verse, and prints the beginning of the eighth in this manner. "For there are three that Witness in Earth." In this method he connects the sixth and the eighth verses together. The folio edition of the Greek Testament by Erasmus is of high authority among the learned, who, in all probability, printed the passage in the way it should be printed according to the evidence of the best manuscripts. It is puerile to suppose that, if the seventh verse is omitted in the Vatican manuscript and the king of Great Britain's manuscript, the sixth and eighth verses are not properly connected. I made a mistake about the eighth verse, which, however, is not very material to the point in dispute about the trinity.

My opponent says, "This critic seems to be grieved that so many bibles are printed in America." I will quote my own words in the beginning of my letter in your fortieth number, to manifest his misrepresentation, and to demand from him an acknowledgment of his error, if he is not totally destitute of candor, in the face of the public..... My words are "As the Americans are printing bibles continually with laudable industry, it would be worth while to consider, whether they should persevere to insert a real interpolation into the bible."

It would be candid at any rate in the printer of an American bible, if he does print the seventh verse, to observe in a note that it is not found in many manuscripts of the New Testament.

My opponent speaks with a very unbecoming regard of the religious writings of the great sir Isaac Newton. He says of me, "It is somewhat comic that he introduces sir Isaac Newton as an authority in biblical criticism." I strongly suspect that he never read ten lines of Newton's Works in his life, and that he even did not know, before I mentioned it, that sir Isaac had written some letters upon the subject of the trinity. I am so ignorant a man as to have attended two courses of lectures on divinity (while those who were designed for the church, only attended one course) which were given by one of the most learned men in the age. This gentleman published an edition of sir Isaac Newton's Mathematical Works which was universally admired, and which at present is *actually used* in the British University of Cambridge. This gentleman, with whom I had a long friendship, often said to me, that sir Isaac Newton was a prodigy of learning and understanding, was equally superior to the common race of mankind in religious as in mathematical and philosophical knowledge. This opinion I know to be generally maintained by learned men, and if the reader will look into a little Work on the prophecies (which has lately come to the library of Philadelphia) by Mr. Zouch, who is acknowledged in Europe to be a very profound scholar, he will find that Mr. Zouch holds the religious writings of sir Isaac Newton in as much estimation as myself, if not in greater. He calls Newton "the most sublime mind that ever was....as great when he laid open the mysteries of the religious system, as when he unveiled those of the natural."

The word trinity is not used in the scriptures, but was afterwards coined by presumptuous and intolerant dogmatists. The doctrine of the trinity especially as maintained in the Athanasian creed, is contradictory to the principles of common sense, and impedes, according to the observation of sir Isaac Newton, and conformably to our *continual experience*, the propagation of the gospel, which is the true law of God, and the greatest blessing ever conferred upon mankind. There is a masterly book about the trinity written by Dr. Samuel Clarke (a genius almost as great as Newton) which I would very particularly recommend to the reader.

My opponent has improperly reflected upon the Philadelphia Library Company for collecting infidel and anti-christian publications. The Philadelphia Library, from former and late importations, may justly be praised for many valuable works in favour of christianity, and I believe it is with reluctance that any infidel publications are admitted into it.

My opponent has abused me in the language of the streets, and has falsely accused me of infidelity, when I only wished to contend for the truth of the scriptures. I hope that time and inquiry will shew him all his errors. I will hope that he will alter his opinion about the trinity and will at last acknowledge that "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

It is said in the seventh chapter of Daniel that the pope shall "change Times and Laws: and they shall be given into his Hand for a Time, and Times, and the dividing of Time." The pope made havoc of the ten commandments. He altogether omitted the second, and made ten commandments of the

whole, without the second. As universal bishop he made over the whole christian world, what the emperor Constantine had partially done, he made the first day of the week the sabbath instead of the seventh. But I firmly believe the time will come when the Jew and the Gentile will acknowledge one sabbath, one God, and one Saviour, "whom he hath appointed Heir of all Things, by whom also he made the Worlds; who being the Brightness of his Glory, and express Image of his Person, and upholding all Things by the Word of his Power, when he had by himself purged our Sins, sat down on the right Hand of the Majesty on High." A SEARCHER OF THE SCRIPTURES.

FESTCON OF FASHION.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

THE Ladies of Philadelphia, who have adopted the *projecting* hat, lately alluded to, resemble a *hooded* friar, and carry us back to the ages of *monkery*, when many a *hypocritical* head was concealed by a *cowl*.

A London paper assures us, that *mob caps* are much the fashion at Paris; a mode of dressing, which Buonaparte surely disapproves.

Black for spencers, robes, and hats is all the rage in Paris: a colour not very seasonable for the *hot piping* times of *peace*.

The Belles of Bath dress generally in light cotton gowns, with *black* stockings, or boots. The majority of the younger ladies are booted, and look like so many of Diana's nymphs, who had been engaged in the chace.

In *London*, if the question be asked, "Is Miss such a one a woman of fashion?" The ready reply of every Bond-street lounger is, "Oh! she is a *nude* of the *finest transparency*."

POLITICS.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

MR. OLDSCHOOL,

YOUR correspondent, who undertook, in the last number of the Port Folio, to pass some strictures on the proceedings of the legislature of this state, relative to the then projected law, declaring the holding of offices under the general and state governments, at the same time, incompatible, has committed an error in asserting, that the legislature had no right to pass such a law, so far as it was retrospective in its operation. Of this he may be convinced, by a reference to the 8th section of the 2d article of the constitution, the words of which are as follow:

Art. 2, sect. 8. "No member of congress from this state, nor any person holding or exercising any office of trust or profit under the United States, shall, at the same time, hold or exercise the office of *judge*, secretary, treasurer, prothonotary, register of wills, recorder of deeds, sheriff, or any office in this state, *to which a salary is by law annexed*, or *any other office*, which *future legislatures* shall declare incompatible with offices or appointments under the United States."

By the concluding clause of this section, it is conceived, that the legislature were fully authorised to pass the law above referred to; and their having done so, in opposition to the governor's *veto*, is a proof of their confidence that the constitution sanctioned the proceeding.

Your correspondent is pleased to compliment the governor on his professional talents and judgment; but surely he cannot think those appointments, which have proved so obnoxious to the people and their representatives, any marks of sound judgment or good discretion in the governor. The public have generally pronounced them, from the beginning, flagrant tokens of partiality, which nothing could justify. In the name of wonder, have we such a lack of professional merit, either among the lawyers or the doctors, that we must lavish all employments, in their particular branches of science, upon two or three men? Sir, it is the spirit of party which claims all the honour of this ungenerous preference. But, although it has been humorously said, that the governor *made* Mr. Leib *a doctor*, by appointing him physician at the lazaretto, and the law requires that he should be *resident* there, it seems that the power of the governor, in this instance, is superior to that of the law, for all this while the doctor is wintering at Washington, and the physician of the port of Philadelphia is performing the duty, for which Dr. Leib receives double the recompense that falls to the other.

I have no objections against Mr. Dallas, as recorder of the city, on the score of talents; but the circumstances under which he was appointed to that office, were highly exceptionable. Whether he will renounce the office he holds under the general government, for the sake of retaining the recordership, I cannot pretend to say; but it is no longer a question, that he must relinquish the one or the other.

FROM THE NEW-YORK EVENING POST.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED.

NO. IX.

THE leading points of the Message have been sufficiently canvassed, and it is believed to have been fully demonstrated, that this communication is chargeable with all the faults which were imputed to it, on the outset of the examination. We have shewn, that it has made, or attempted to make, prodigal sacrifices of constitutional energy, of sound principle, and of public interest. In the doctrine respecting war, there is a senseless abandonment of the just and necessary authority of the executive department, in a point, material to our national safety. In the proposals to relinquish the internal revenue, there is an attempt to establish a precedent, ruinous to our public credit: calculated to prolong the burden of the debt, and, generally, to enfeeble and sink the government, by depriving it of resources of great importance to its respectability, to the accomplishment of its most salutary plans, to its power of being useful. In the attack upon the judiciary establishment, there is a plain effort to impair that organ of the government, one on which its efficiency and success absolutely depend. In the recommendation to admit indiscriminately foreign emigrants, of every description, to the privileges of American citizens, on their first entrance into our country, there is an attempt to break down every pale which has been erected, for the preservation of a national spirit and a national character, and to let in the most powerful means of perverting and corrupting both the one and the other.

This is more than the moderate opponents of Mr. Jefferson's elevation ever feared from his administration: much more than the most wrong-headed of his own sect dared to hope; it is infinitely more than any one who had read the fair professions in his inaugural speech could have suspected. Reflecting men must be dismayed at the prospect before us. If such rapid strides have been hazarded in the very gristle of his administration, what may be expected when it shall arrive to manhood? In vain was the collected wisdom of America convened at Philadelphia.....In vain were the anxious labours of a Washington bestowed. Their works are regarded as nothing better than empty bubbles, destined to be blown away by the mere breath of a disciple of Turgot, a pupil of Condorcet.

Though the most prominent features of the message have been pourtrayed, and their deformity exhibited in true colours, there remain many less important traits not yet touched, which, however, will materially assist us in determing its true character. To particularise them with minuteness would employ more time and labour than the object deserves; yet to pass them by wholly, without remark, would be to forego valuable materials for illustrating the true nature of the performance under examination.

There remains to be cursorily noticed, a disposition in our chief magistrate, far more partial to the state governments, than to our national government; to pull down rather than to build up our federal edifice....to vilify the past administration of the latter.....to court for himself popular favour, by artifices not to be approved of, either for their dignity, their candour, or their patriotism.

Why are we emphatically and fastidiously told, that "the states, individually, have the *principal* care of our *persons*, our *property*, and our *reputation*, *constituting the great field of human concerns*." Was it to render the state governments more dear to us, more the objects of affectionate solicitude?..... Nothing surely was necessary on this head; they are already the favourites of the people, and if they do not forfeit the advantage by a most gross abuse of trust, must, by the very nature of the objects confided to them, continue always to be so. Was it then to prevent too large a portion of affection from being bestowed on the general government? No pains on this head were requisite, not only for the reason just assigned, but for the further reason that the more peculiar objects of this government, though no less essential to our prosperity than those of the state governments, oblige it often to act upon the community in a manner more likely to produce aversion than fondness. Accordingly every day furnishes proof, that it is not the *spoiled child of the many*. On this point the high example of the president himself is pregnant with instruction. Was it to indicate the supreme importance of the state governments over that of the United States? This was as little useful, as it was correct. Considering the vast variety of humours, prepossessions, and localities, which, in the much diversified composition of these states, militate against the weight and authority of the general government, if union under that government is necessary, it can answer no valuable purpose to depreciate its importance in the eyes of the people. It is not correct; because to the care of the federal government are confided, directly, those great general interests, on which all particular interests materially depend: our safety in respect to foreign nations; our tranquillity in respect to each other; the foreign and mutual commerce of the states; the establishment and regulation of the money of the country; the management of our national finances; indirectly, the security of liberty, by the guarantee of a republican form of government to each state; the security of property, by the interdiction of laws violating the obligation of contracts, and issuing the emissions of paper money, under state authority (from both of which causes the right of property had experienced serious injury); the prosperity of agriculture and manufactures, as intimately connected with that of commerce, and as depending, in a variety of ways, upon the agency of the general government: In a word, it is the province of the general government to manage the greatest number of those concerns, in which its provident *activity* and *exertion* are of most importance to the people; and we have only to compare the state of our country antecedent to its establishment, with what it has been since, to be convinced that the most operative causes of public prosperity depend upon that general government. It is not meant, by what has been said, to insinuate that the state governments are not extremely useful in their proper spheres; but the object is to guard against the mischiefs of exaggerating their im-

portance, in derogation from that of the general government. Every attempt to do this is, remotely, a stab at the union of these states ; a blow to our collective existence as one people.....and to all the blessings, which are interwoven with that sacred fraternity.

If it be true, as insinuated, that " our organization is too complicated.....too expensive".....let it be simplified ; let this, however, be done in such a manner as not to mutilate, weaken, or eventually destroy our present system, but in a manner to increase the energy, and insure the duration of our national government, *the rock of our political salvation.*

In this insinuation, and in the suggestion that " offices and officers have been unnecessarily multiplied :" in the intimation that appropriations have not been sufficiently specific, and that the system of accountability to a single department has been disturbed ; in this and in other things, too minute to be particularized, we discover new proofs of the disposition of the present executive, unjustly and indecorously to arraign his predecessors.

As far as the message undertakes to specify any instance of the improper complexity of our organization, namely, in the instance of the judiciary establishment, the late administration has been laready vindicated.

As to the " *undue* multiplication of offices and officers," it is substantially a misrepresentation. It would be nothing less than a miracle, if, in a small number of instances, it had not happened that particular offices and officers might have been dispensed with. For in the early essays of a new government, in making the various establishments relative to the affairs of a nation, some mistakes in this respect will arise, notwithstanding the greatest caution. It must happen to every government, that in the hurry of a new plan, some agents will occasionally be employed, who may not be absolutely necessary ; and this, where there is every inclination to economy. Similar things may have happened under our past administration. But any competent judge, who will take the trouble to examine into it, will be convinced, that there is no just cause for blame in this particular.

The president has not pointed out the cases, to which he applies the charge ; but he has communicated information of some retrenchments, which he has made, and probably intends that the truth shall be inferred from this.

Three instances are particularly presented; these shall be briefly examined ; it will be seen that they do not justify the imputation. They respect certain ministers at foreign courts ; some navy agents at particular ports ; and some inspectors of the revenue in particular states.

As to the first, it is believed to be a pretty just idea, that we ought not greatly to multiply diplomatic agencies. Three permanent ones may, perhaps, be found sufficient in the future progress of our affairs ; for France, Spain, and England..... The expediency of having these, is recognized by the conduct of our present chief magistrate. But others must be employed, and, during particular seasons, it may be wise to do it for a considerable length of time. Indeed there is strong ground for an opinion entertained by very sensible men, that there ought to be a permanent minister at every court, with which we have extensive commercial relations.

Two other ministers were employed by both the former administrations, one with Portugal, the other with Holland ; and it is asserted, without fear of denial, that this was done by the first president with the approbation of Mr. Jefferson. One other minister was employed by the late president at the court of Berlin.

A commercial treaty with Portugal is admitted, on all hands, and for obvious reasons, to be particularly desirable ; as very interesting branches of our commerce are carried on in the Portuguese dominions. We are still without any such treaty. To send to that court a diplomatic agent to endeavour to effect one, was a measure of evident propriety ; to recal them before a treaty has been effected, must be of questionable expediency. The views and circumstances of nations change ; and an opportunity may occur, at some particular conjuncture, for effecting what was not before possible, which may be lost by the want of a fit agent on the spot to embrace it. But admitting that the experiment has now been sufficiently tried to justify its abandonment, still it does not follow that it was unwise to have continued it as long as it was: and as this must at least rest in opinion, the continuance, if upon an erroneous calculation in this particular, is no proof of a " disposition to multiply offices" or officers. And those, who consider the nature and extent of our commercial relations with Portugal, will not cease to think it problematical, whether the expense of a diplomatic agent, especially in a situation, in which nothing has been defined by treaty, ought to stand in competition with the benefits, which may result from the presence of a minister at the court of that kingdom. This consideration alone is sufficient to repel the charge.

NUMBER X.

AS to Holland being the second power which acknowledged our Independence, and made a treaty with us, a step which involved her in war with Great Britain, it was deemed proper to treat her with a marked respect. Besides this, from the time of our revolution to the present, we have had large money concerns with her people. A trusty and skilful public agent was for a long time necessary to superintend those concerns. If in a different capacity, it could not have cost much less, and by the annexation of a diplomatic character, a double purpose was answered. The honourable nature of the station enabled the Government to find an agent at a less expense than would have been requisite to procure one merely for the money object. It is not meant to deny, that the great change which has lately happened in the affairs of that country, making it in effect a dependency on France, rendered a removal of the minister proper; but it does not follow that it ought to have been done sooner. It is also known, that Mr. Murray, the late envoy, has been for a considerable time past, employed in our negociations with France ; which probably was a collateral reason for not recalling him sooner. In respect to one, if not to both these ministers, it may be observed, that a time of war was not the most eligible moment for their removal of a minister.

As to Berlin, the inducements for keeping a minister there, have never been fully explained. It is only known, that our commercial treaty with Prussia had expired, and that a renewal has been effected by the envoy sent thither; but influential as was the court of Prussia in the affairs of Europe during the late dreadful storm, it may have been conceived, that a cultivation of the good will of the Prussian monarch was not a matter of indifference to the peace and security of this country. If this was the object of the mission, though there may have been too far-fetched a policy in the case, it offers a defence of the measure, which exculpates the executive at least from the charge of a desire to multiply officers improvidently.

On the most unfavourable supposition then, here was one diplomatic agent too many, and two others were continued longer than was absolutely necessary. This surely is not of magnitude sufficient to constitute a serious charge, where malevolence did not inspire a spirit of accusation. In considering this question, it ought to be remembered, is the prevailing policy of governments to keep diplomatic agents at all courts where they have important relations.

As to the navy agents, it is sufficient to say, that they were temporary persons, who grew up out of our rupture with France ; who, when they were appointed, were useful to accelerate naval preparations at as many points as could be advantageously occupied, and that it was only proper to discontinue them when an accommodation had been effected, and after they had had time enough to wind up the affairs of their agency. This was not the case previous to Mr. Jefferson's administration. In other instances of removal he only did it to make way for members of his own sect, and it will not be pretended that here there was any foundation for the charge under examination.

As to the inspectors of the revenue, the case in brief stands thus.....When the excise on distilled spirits was established, three different descriptions of officers were instituted to carry it into effect. Supervisors, inspectors, and collectors were distributed to districts, surveys, and divisions, one to each. A district comprehends an entire state ; a survey some large portion of it, or a number of counties ; a division, for the most part, a single county. In some of the small states, there were no district officers for the surveys.....the duties of inspector being annexed to those of supervisor; in larger ones, there were inspectors more or less numerous according to their extent. As other internal revenues were established, they were put under the management of the same officers. The bare statement of the fact shews the necessity of these officers. The revenues of no government were perhaps ever collected under a more simple organization, or through a smaller number of channels. It is not alleged that the first and last classes of officers were unnecessary. It is only to the middle class that any specious objection can be made. Let us conjecture the reasons for employing them.

In some of the states great opposition was expected, and was actually experienced. In such states especially, it was evidently useful to have the exertions of some men of weight and character in their sphere of moderate extent, to reconcile the discontented ;....to arrange the details of business, and to give energy to the measures for collection. In others, similar officers were probably useful in the early stages, for the purpose of establishing the details simply. The subdivision was in all cases favourable to an active and vigilant superintendence. Nor does it require extraordinary penetration to discern that the policy was wise, at the time when the measures were adopted. It is possible that upon the complete establishment of the plan, when all opposition had been vanquished, and when the collection has become an affair of mere routine, that this intermediate class may have ceased to be essential. But till this had become perfectly evident, it would have been premature to alter the original plan. Though it be true, that some years have elapsed since the excise law was passed, it is not very long since it has been in full and uninterrupted operation. Other laws, introducing other branches of internal revenue, have been subsequently passed, from time to time, and the agency of the same officers have probably been found useful on their first introduction and execution. Hence it is easily accounted for that they were not before discontinued, if indeed experience has shewn that they are not still necessary, which is itself problematical. Nothing is more easy than to reduce the number of agents employed in any business, and yet for the business to go on with the reduced number. But before the reduction is applauded, it ought to be ascertained that the business is as well done as it was before. There is a wide difference between merely getting along with business and doing it well and effectually.

These observations sufficiently shew that in the instances which have been cited, there is no evidence of a disposition in the preceding administrations, improperly to multiply offices and officers. Acting under different circumstances, they conducted as those circumstances dictated, and in all probability, in a manner the best adapted to the advancement of the public service. A change of circumstances, may in some instances have rendered a continuance of some of the agents thus employed unnecessary; and the present Chief Magistrate may even be right in discontinuing them; but it is not therefore right to attempt to derive from this any plea of peculiar merit with the people; and it is very far from right to make it a topic of slander on predecessors. Perhaps however this is too rigorous a construction, and that nothing more was intended than to set off to the best advantage, the petty services of petty talents.

If this was the true aim, it is to be regretted that it was not so managed as to avoid the appearance of a design to depreciate in the public estimation, the men who went before.—Had this delicacy or caution been observed, the attempt would have attracted neither notice nor comment.

" Commas and points he sets exactly right,
" And 'twere a sin to rob him of his mite."

NUMBER XI.

THE Message observes that " in our care of the public contributions entrusted to our direction, it would be prudent to multiply barriers against the dissipation of public money, appropriating specific sums to every specific purpose, *susceptible of definition;* by disallowing all applications of money varying from the appropriation in object, or transcending it in amount, by reducing the undefined field of contingencies, and thereby circumscribing discretionary powers over money, and by *bringing back* to a single department all accountabilities for money where the examination may be prompt, efficacious and uniform." In this recommendation we can be at no loss to discover additional proof of a deliberate design in the present Chief Magistrate to arraign the former administrations. All these suggestions imply in them a former either negligent or defective attention to the objects recommended; some of them go further, and insinuate that there had been at least a departure from correct plans, which had before been instituted. The censure intended to be conveyed is as unjust as the conceptions which have dictated it, are crude and chimerical. In all matters of this nature, the question turns upon the proper boundaries of the precautions to be observed; how far they ought to go; where they should stop; how much is necessary for security, and order; what qualifications of general rules are to be admitted to adapt them to practice, and to attain the ends of the public service. It is certainly possible to do too much as well as too little; to embarrass, if not defeat the good which may be done, by attempting more than is practicable; or to overbalance that good by evils accruing from an excess of regulation. Men of business know this to be the case in the ordinary affairs of life: how much more must it be so, in the extensive and complicated concerns of an empire? To reach and not to pass the salutary medium is the province of sound judgment. To miss the point will ever be the lot of those who, enveloped all their lives in the mists of theory, are constantly seeking for an ideal perfection, which never was and never will be attainable in reality. It is about this medium, not about general principles, that those in power in our government have differed; and to experience, not to the malevolent insinuations of rivals, must be the appeal, whether the one or the other description of persons have judged most accurately. Yet discerning men may form no imperfect opinion of the merits of the controversy between them, by even a cursory view of the distinctions on which it has turned.

Nothing, for instance, is more just or proper than the position, that the legislature ought to appropriate specific sums, for specific purposes; but nothing is more wild or of more inconvenient tendency than to attempt to appropriate " a specific sum for each specific purpose, *susceptible of definition;*" as the Message preposterously recommends. Thus (to take a familiar example) in providing for the transportation of an army; *oats* and *hay* for the subsistence of horses, are each susceptible of a definition, and an estimate, and a precise sum may be appropriated for each separately; yet in the operations of an army, it will often happen that more than a sufficient quantity of the one article may be obtained, and not a sufficient quantity of the other. If the appropriations be distinct, and the officer who is to make the provision be not at liberty to divert the fund from one of these objects to the other (as the doctrine of the Message implies), the horses of the army may in such a case starve; and its movements be arrested—in some situations even the army itself may likewise be starved, by a failure of the means of transportation.

If it be said, that the inconvenience here suggested, may be avoided, by making the appropriations for *forage*, generally, and not for the items which compose it separately: The answer is, first, that this, by uniting and blending different things, susceptible each of a precise definition, is an abandonment of the principle of the Message; secondly, That it would be only a partial cure for the mischiefs incident to that rigorous principle. It might happen that the badness of roads would injure the waggons of the army more than was anticipated, and so much more as to exhaust the specific fund appropriated for their repairs; it might also have happened from various causes that at an earlier period of the campaign, the consumption of forage had been less than was calculated, so that there was a surplus of the fund destined for this object: If in such a case the public agent could not transfer that surplus to the repairs of the waggons; here in like manner, the motions of the army might be suspended, and in the event famine and ruin produced.

This analysis might be pursued, so as to prove that similar evils are inseparable, from a much more qualified application of the principle in the message, and so to demonstrate that nothing more can safely or reasonably be attempted, than to distribute the public expenses, into a certain number of convenient subdivisions or departments; to require from the proper officers, estimates of the items, which are to compose each head of expense, and after examining these with due care, to adapt the appropriations to the respective aggregates; applying a specific sum to the amount of each great subdivision:—the pay of the army; military stores; quarter-masters' stores, &c. &c. This, with even more detail than could well be executed, has been uniformly done, under the past administrations of the present government, from the very beginning of its proceedings. More will in the experiment be found impracticable and injurious; especially in seasons and in situations, when the public service demands activity and exertion. In like manner, the former practice of the government, has corresponded with the rule, taken in its true and just sense, of " disallowing all applications of money, varying from the appropriation inobject, or transcending it in amount." It is confidently believed, that whoever shall allege or insinuate the contrary, may be challenged to point out the instance in which money has been issued from the treasury for any purpose, which was not sanctioned by regular appropriation, or which exceeded the appropriated amount; or where there was an expenditure of money allowed, that was not strictly within the limits of such an appropriation; except indeed, upon the impracticable idea of minutely separating, and distinguishing the items which form the aggregate of some general head of expenditure.

It is likewise material, to have it well understood, that generally speaking, the distinction between the appropriations for different objects, can only be strictly observed at the treasury itself; which can easily take care that more money shall not go out for any purpose, than is authorized by law; and can see that this money is fairly expended by the proper officer, in conformity with the general spirit of the appropriation prescribed by the law. But it is in most cases impossible for the officer, charged with a particular branch of the public service, to separate nicely, in the details of expenditure, the different funds which may have been placed in his hands. Thus, still drawing our examples from the military department, where the danger of misapplication is always the greatest) if several sums be placed in the hands of the quarter-master general, for different objects, he must of necessity, distribute a large proportion of them among his principal deputies, and these again among subordinate agents. Unless this distribution be pursued through the remotest ramifications, down to the moment of final expenditure, it is evident that it must fail throughout; and it is no less evident that it cannot be so far pursued. The mere accountantship would be an insuperable obstacle; it would require in every the most inferior agent, a profound knowledge of accounts, and would impose both on principals and subordinates the duty of keeping such a multiplicity of accounts, as, if even practicable, would exhaust the funds issued for the public service, in mere clerkship. Another most mischievous consequence would ensue. The exigencies of the public service are often so variable, that a public agent would frequently find himself full-handed for one purpose; empty-handed for another, and if forbidden to make a transfer, not only the service would suffer, but an opportunity, with very strong temptation, would be given to traffic with the public money for private gain: while the business of the government would be stagnated by the injudicious and absurd impediments of an over-driven strictness. Happily it is not very material that the principle of distinct appropriations for separate objects should be carried through all the details. The essential ends of it are answered, if it be strictly pursued, in the issuing of money from the treasury; and if this department be careful that the principle lines of discrimination are not transgressed.

The theory of the Message plainly contemplates, that in no case shall the *actual money* appertaining to one fund, be expended for the purpose of another; though each fund may be sufficient for its object, and though there may be an appropriature for each object. This is another excess of theory; which with a *full treasury* would often disable the government, from fulfilling its engagements, and from carrying on the public business. To execute this plan consistently with exigencies of national expenditure, would probably require, in ordinary, a triplication of the revenue, or a capital necessary for the whole amount of that expenditure, and would very often lock up from circulation, large sums, which might be of great importance to the activity of trade and industry. Such are the endless blessings to be expected from the notable schemes of a philosophic *projector!* strict to a fault, where relaxation is necessary; lax to a vice, where strictness is essential!

As to "reducing the undefined field of contingencies, and circumscribing discretionary powers over money," observations similar to those which have been already made, occur. The term *reducing*, implies that the thing must have already existed in a degree; and indeed it is manifest, that all the minute casualities of expenditure, especially in the naval and military departments, cannot be forseen and defined. The question then must be, has not the limit been sufficiently narrow for the situation of the Government, in the scenes through which it has passed; comprehending for a great part of the time Indian wars and foreign hostilities? Certainly, if viewed on a proportionable scale, the extent appears to have been as moderate as could have been desired; and no blame can justly attach to the administration on this account.

As to "*bringing back* to a single department all accountabilities for money," there never has been a deviation from that system. The department of the treasury has uniformly preserved a vigilant superintendance over all accountabilities for public money. A particular accountant indeed has been appointed in the war and navy departments, but he has been subordinate to the treasury department, which has prescribed regulations for his conduct, and has constantly revised his proceedings. It is true, that by his connection with the particular department for which he is accountant, there are cases in which he is to be guided by the directions of the head of that department; but though these directions, if not plainly contrary to the rules prescribed by the treasury, would exempt him from responsibility, the directions themselves pass under the review of the treasury, as a check upon the head of the department to which he is attached; and in cases of abuse, they would serve to establish a responsibility of the principal. To say, that this interfers with a prompt examination of accounts, is to affirm, that a division of labour is injurious to dispatch; a position contrary to all experience. The fact, without doubt, is, that it contributes essentially to dispatch: and that whatever new modification may be adopted, either the accounts of the other departments will never keep pace with the current of business in times of activity, or that modification must adhere to the principle of employing distinct organs.

If it be the design to exclude, in every case, the intervention of the head of the particular department, some or all of these evils will follow: The service of that department will suffer, by unduly restricting its head, in cases in which he must be the most competent judge, and by obliging him, in order to avoid eventual difficulties, to resort, in the first instance, to another department, less alive than himself to the exigences of his own, for a cautious and slow, perhaps a reluctant acquiescence in arrangements which require promptness; if, in the spirit of confidence and accommodation, the officers of the treasury yield a ready compliance with the wishes of the head of such department, they may inadvertently co-operate in measures which they would have disapproved and corrected on a deliberate and impartial revision. If this spirit be not shewn, not only the immediate service of the department may be improperly impeded, but sensations, unfriendly to the due harmony of the different members of the administration, may be engendered. Collusion stands on one, discord on the other side of the dilemma.

The existing plan steers a middle and a prudent course; neither fettering too much the heads of the other departments, nor relinquishing too far the requisite controul of the treasury. Its opposite supposes all trust may be placed in one department—none in the others. The extravagant jealousy of the overbearing influence of the treasury department, which was so conspicuous in the times of the two former secretaries, has of a sudden given way to unlimited confidence! The intention seems to be to surround the brow of their immaculate successor, with the collected rays of legislative and executive favour. But vain will be the attempt to add lustre to the dim luminary of a benighted administration!

LUCIUS CRASSUS.

MUSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

[The following elegant description of a musical banquet, will delight the amateur.]

FEAST OF ANACREON.

THE Columbian Anacreontic Society last evening gave their annual Ladies' Concert, in a style of superior elegance. The whole suite of apartments occupied by the city assemblies, was thrown open on this occasion. No pains or expense had been spared to provide suitable entertainment, and Mrs. Oldmixon, whose musical powers have long since acquired her great celebrity, was procured from Philadelphia.

The company assembled at an early hour, and were numerous, beyond any former occasion..... The ladies had generally taken ornaments of *coquelico*, in compliment to the society; and it was only requisite that the seats should have been constructed amphitheatrically, to have exhibited a *spectacle*, the most striking, brilliant, and fascinating.

The following extract from the bill contains the music which was given:....

ACT I.

	COMPOSERS' NAMES.
Grand Overture to Mahmoud - - - - - -	*Storace.*
Song, Mr. Fox, "*My journey is Love*," -	*Hook.*
Song, Miss Brett, "*To Arms both the Helens and Hectors*," - - - - - - - - - - -	*Dibdin.*
Song, Mr. Hodgkinson, "*Fancy's Bower, or the Ladies' Annual Concert*," - - - -	*Haigh.*
Song, Mrs. Hodgkinson, "*The Spirits of the Bless'd*," - - - - - - - - - - - - -	*Carr.*
Song, by a Member of the Society (unaccompanied), "*Alone by the light of the Moon*," - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	*Hook.*
Duet, Mr. Hodgkinson and Miss Brett, "*Of Freedom the Blessing*," - - - - - -	*Storace.*
Song, Mrs. Oldmixon, "*Each Coming Day*," - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	*Atwood.*
Concerto Grand Piano Forte, Mr. Gilfort, junr. lately arrived in this country, - -	*Foder.*

ACT II.

1. Adagio and Minuetto - - - - - - - -	*Pleyel.*
2. A New Scotch Song, Miss Brett, - -	*Hook.*
3. Concerto Clarinet, composed and performed by - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	*Gautier.*
4. Trumpet Song, Mr. Hodgkinson, - -	*Pellisier.*
5. Song, "*Sweet passion of Love*" (by particular desire), Mrs. Hodgkinson, - -	*Arne.*
6. Ballad, Mr. Fox, "*Come buy my Wooden Ware*," - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	*Hook.*
7. Song, Mr. Wilson, "*Steal Love's fetters o'er the Mind*," - - - - - - - - - -	*Shield.*
8. Bravura, Mrs. Oldmixon, "*Pity my tortur'd Heart*," - - - - - - - - - - - -	*Giordani.*
9. Scotch Medley Overture, - - - - - -	*Arnold.*

Music selected and arranged by Mr. Hodgkinson, president of the society.

Leader of the orchestra, Mr. Hewitt.

Propriety will not, perhaps, permit on such an occasion the indulgence of critical remarks on the performance, were we otherwise inclined to make such, and did we feel ourselves competent; we shall only, therefore, observe, that of the songs, those most distinguished were the two by Mrs. Oldmixon; the second of Mrs. Hodgkinson's, and the second of Miss Brett's. Mrs. O. in her first, pleased by sweetness and simplicity; in her *bravura*, she astonished by the prodigious compass of her voice; her flute notes in *alt* in a particular manner excited the admiration of the audience; which was expressed in loud and universal applauses; courtesy to the stranger, as much perhaps as approbation of her performance, caused these plaudits to be again and again repeated. The song, however, most calculated to *charm the listening ear*, was Mrs. Hodgkinson's second....Her "*Sweet Passion of Love*," was given with a delicacy of tone, a distinctness of articulation, a force of emphasis, and a degree of impassioned tenderness, which reached every heart.

Mr. Gilfort met with much deserved applause, for his truly surprising execution. Mr. Gautier exhibited, as he always does, powers over his instrument, which we have never witnessed in any other. His *rondo* was captivating.

The sense of *tasting* was not forgotten by the managers any more than that of hearing; between the acts the gentlemen retired to the tea-room, where they found a plenty of substantial refreshments; while a profusion of fruits and delicacies was served round to the ladies, by the gentlemen of the society; this part of the evening's amusement was received by the company with marks of approbation, not easily to be understood.

On the whole, we believe it may with truth be said, that the satisfaction generally received, was fully equal to the expectations, which had been raised. We beg permission to express our hope, that an institution so honourable to the taste and manners of our city, may continue to receive the electric applause of *Beauty* and *Fashion*.

[*New-York Evening Post.*

MISCELLANEOUS PARAGRAPHS.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

IN the year 1777, the importation of tea from China to England, was about sixteen millions of pounds. From that time to the present, it has increased to no less than THIRTY MILLIONS.

—

Coffee was first used in Persia, as a beverage among the religious of that country; thence it was transported into Turkey, and found its way into Europe through France. It was first known in Great-Britain, in 1652. The *first* coffee-house in London was instituted by a Greek.

—

The Walpole paper is always decorated with the flowers of fancy; and, in the Farmer's Museum, we find many a curious article, worthy the attention of the connoisseur. The following is a gem:

THE SENSITIVE PLANT.

AN EPIGRAM,

The Hint from a Fact

Three belles in a garden were viewing the plants,
Conducted respectively by their gallants.
"Here Nancy," said William, "is one will reveal
A secret which many fam'd beauties conceal;
For where modest virtue has flown from her stand,
It wilts at the touch, and recedes from the hand."
The young ladies gaz'd as if rather dismay'd,
But Nancy at length said, "Poh! I'm not afraid."
Her fair hand advanc'd—the experiment tried,
When lo! in an instant the plant droop'd and died!*
The poor girl first redden'd, then whiter than snow
Said faintly—"Lord help me! How does the plant know!"

NOMUS.

—

The following is a "good enough barometer" of the "popular gale," and well exposes the knavery

* As the sensitive plant does in fact droop and fold up its leaves at the touch of *any* person, this trick was a very mischievous one on the part of William. Happily for the peace of society, nature, in reality, affords no such criterion.

of the demagogue, and the simplicity of those silly sheep, the people:

Nothing shews folly in a more contemptible light, than its being repeatedly duped by the same deceit. Of all the pretences, which have imposed upon the credulity of mankind, that of *patriotism* is oftenest used. The reason is evident. Observation of political errors, without attention to their nature or source, gives weight to the clamours of the *patriot*, and makes the giddy multitude listen to his specious promises of redress, as a drowning person catches at a straw; constant disappointments not in the least abating their credulity.

—

A poetaster says, in a late volume of advice to the ladies, concerning their behaviour,

"In public places let no nymph appear,
Till she has learnt a fit behaviour there."

This is almost as good counsel as the Irishman gave to his friend, when he advised him never to go into the water, until he had learned to swim.

—

In a late number of the Philadelphia Gazette, we have perused, with a very continued approbation, the following ingenious satire:

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the young men of this city, held for the purpose of adopting measures to co-operate with the other sex in the glorious improvements in dress, the following resolutions were proposed, and unanimously agreed to:....

Resolved, That the ardent thanks of this meeting be presented to those enlightened few, who have nobly combated the errors and the prejudices of the times, by exhibiting to our enraptured view a great portion of their persons, which, hitherto, an absurd regard for modesty has concealed in obscurity; and that, in future, they be distinguished by the appellation of the Spartan band.

Resolved, That a comittee be appointed, to report what alteration will be necessary in our dress, to assimilate it, if possible, to that of the other sex; if the pantaloons ought to undergo a revision, or whether they had not better be laid aside, as superfluous and unnecessary.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to wait on the Spartan band, to express to them our sanguine hopes, that they will not pause in the glorious career they have entered on, but that every year will disclose more and more of their beauteous forms, till at last they arrive at the summit of perfectibility, by appearing "in puris naturalibus."

Resolved, That the pictures of the Spartan band be taken by Mr. Stuart; that he be directed to array them, in their new costume, in his most glowing colours; and that they be placed in the most conspicuous part of the theatre, for the benefit of those, who may not have been gratified with a sight of the originals.

In the enthusiasm of the moment, it was proposed to proceed directly through the streets to the houses of the band, with their pantaloons in their hands, as an evidence of the rapid progress of reformation; but this was negatived, upon the suggestion that, although, in a short time, this would, no doubt, be done by all, yet, at present, the novelty of the scene might attract such a concourse of admirers, as to render their return home somewhat inconvenient. Whereupon the meeting adjourned.

Published by order of the meeting,
ADAM SANSCULOTTE, *Chairman.*

—

The American Ladies' and Gentlemen's Pocket Almanack, for 1802, has just been published, by Mr. Longworth. It must be gratifying to every person of taste, to observe this successful attempt to vie with European artists; and it is to be hoped public patronage will duly appreciate the exertion. It is not too highly commending this little volume, to pronounce it to be honourable to the state of American arts. The quantity of its contents makes it a cheap collection of elegant poetry, selected with much judgment, mostly from living authors. In a word, we may say, without hesitation, it is superior, in point of execution, to any European publication of the sort. [*New-York Evening Post.*

—

LAW CASE.

The following case is related by Sadi, in his *Gulistan*, or Rose Garden, and is cited by Puffendorf* with approbation:

A man, who had a disorder in his eyes, called on a farrier for a remedy, and he applied to them a medicine, commonly used for his patients. The man lost his sight, and brought an action for damages; but the judge said, "No action lies, for, if the complainant had not himself been an ass, he would never have employed a farrier!"

Jones on Bailments, 77.

—

The Bond-street heroes, since the late pedestrian feats, are no longer to be called *loungers*, but *walkers*. They adopt the velocity of *running footmen*, and thrusting people into the kennel is all the rage.

—

We read, with great interest, the following advertisement, in a London paper of recent date:

"Speedily will be published, in one volume, quarto, illustrated with maps (dedicated, by permission, to his majesty), Voyages from Montreal, on the River St. Laurence, through the Continent of North America, to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans, in the years 1789 and 1793. With a preliminary account of the rise, progress, and present state of the Fur Trade in that country. By Alexander Mackenzie, Esq."

This book will prove a most valuable accession to the stock of travels in this country. Mr. Mackenzie has been frequently described as one of the most intelligent of tourists.

—

A lady, of great *literary* acquirements, lately gave her husband a very severe shock, by assuring him that not a day passed over her head at *Margate*, without seeing her in *old Neptune's bosom!*

—

The archbishop of York was very fond of a pun. His clergy dining with him, for the first time after he had lost his lady, he told them he feared they did not find things in so good order as they used to be, in the time of poor Mary: and, looking extremely sorrowful, added with a deep sigh, "She was indeed *Mare pacificum*." A curate, who well knew what *she had been*, called out "Aye, my lord, but she was *Mare mortuum* first."

—

We have often heard of a "*dingy* Desdemona," but the following is new. When Foote once wished to draw a full house at the Haymarket theatre, he inserted in the play-bills, that by particular desire, for that night only, the part of Calista, the *fair* Penitent, would be performed by a *blackamoor* lady of great accomplishments.

—

Barrymore, happening to come late to the theatre, and having to dress for his part, was driven to the last moment, when, to heighten his perplexity, the *key* of his drawer was missing. "D——n it," says he, "I must have swallowed it." "Never mind," replied Bannister, coolly, "If you have swallowed the key.....it will serve to *open your* chest."

—

Mr. Whitely, manager of a country theatre, having constantly an eye to his *interest*, one evening, during the performance of Richard III, gave a tolerable proof of that being his leading principle. Representing the crook-back'd tyrant, he exclaimed, "Hence, babbling dreams! you threaten here in vain; Conscience avaunt."....."That man in the brown wig there has got into the pit without paying."....."Richard's himself again."

—

A gentleman dined one day with a dull preacher. Dinner was scarcely over, before the gentleman fell asleep; but was awakened by the divine, and invited to go and hear him preach. "I beseech you, sir, to excuse me, I can *sleep* very well where I am."

—

When general Burgoyne was once at a play, which was most miserably acted, at a barn, in Lancashire, he called one of the performers, and asked him what was the name of the piece, "The *Stage-Coach*, sir," replied Buskin, bowing very respectfully. "Why then," answered the general, returning the bow, with the utmost gravity, "you will greatly oblige me, by giving me early notice the next time it is performed, that I may be an *outside passenger*."

—

Two clergymen, descanting of the mischiefs that had crept into the church, one of them said that a large portion of his flock were tinctured with *deism*; the other complained that many of *his* congregation were still worse, being infected with *atheism*. "And I am sure," added a bystander, "that nearly half of our parish is, at this minute, sadly afflicted with *rheumatism*."

—

An English gentleman, travelling through the county of Kilkenny, came to a ford, and hired a boat to take him across. The water being rather more agitated than was agreeable to him, he asked the boatman, if any person was ever *lost* in the passage. Never, replied the boatman, my brother was *drowned* here last week, but we *found* him next day.

—

A conceited Colonel in the Cavalry lately complained that from the ignorance of his officers, he was obliged to do the whole duty of the regiment—I am said he, my own captain, my own lieutenant, my own cornet—and your own *trumpeter*, added a witty lady.

—

A fellow once calling a barber a *paper skull* booby, so irritated the friseur, that he swore, if ever he dared to repeat the phrase, he'd give him such a dressing, as he never had in his life, and added—*paper skull* indeed! I'd have you to know *that my skull is as thick as yours, and be d——nd to you.*

—

You and *your* perpetually introduced in familiar conversation have a bad effect. They remind one of Mrs. Hannah Glasse of *culinary* memory—"when *you* have made *your* water boil, then put *your* pudding into *your* pot."

—

In running over the pages of an old literary journal, there is found a novel, translated from the *French*, entitled "*The Virtuous Criminal*," &c. The *philosophers* of the *new* school are very adroit in combining vice and virtue, in *their* hodge podge of moral relations. Thus we hear of "Artless Deception," "Good natured Parricide," "Honest Thieves," and "Innocent Adultery."

—

Walking Match.—On Wednesday morning, at half past seven, Thomas Dennison, of Thirsk, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, set out to walk to York, thence back to Carlton, about two miles and a half north of Thirsk, and thence to the house he

* De Jur. Nat. & Gent. lib. 5, cap. 5, § 3.

started from, against Thomas Bradley, of the same place, for thirty guineas a side. Dennison performed the journey, being about fifty-one miles, with considerable ease, in nine hours and a quarter, leaving Bradely from nine to ten miles behind.

[*Morning Post.*

A London paper narrates, that Mr. Barclay, while in training for his walking match in Yorkshire, lived principally on *beef stakes* and *vinegar!* He was regularly exercised every day, and the utmost pains were taken to keep *women* out of his sight!

ORIGINAL POETRY.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

WALTER AND MARY.

A LONG time ago, as old legends recite,
In the depth of yon forest's deep gloom,
Stood the cottage of Mary, where oft on a night,
While the moon faintly beam'd thro' the foliage her light,
She lov'd with her Walter to roam.

Yet Walter was needy, the child of distress,
Chilling penury call'd him her own;
Tho' fortune had scorn'd with her riches to bless
Poor Walter, yet Mary ne'er lov'd him the less;
Yet in silence he mourn'd, and alone.

Cold and cruel, and miserly, stricken in years,
Was the parent of Mary the maid,
Nought he heeded the sigh that would break on his ears,
Nor the smile of affection that beam'd thro' her tears,
As compassion for Walter she pray'd.

Yet pure as the dew-drop that sits on the flow'r,
The affection that warm'd Walter's breast,
More pure than the Spring breeze, when kiss'd by the show'r,
As pure as the waters of *Jordan*, what hour
Its stream by the Saviour was press'd.

Old Reuben, the herdsman, was wealthy, and sigh'd
To rival the youth with the maid;
Long to gain her affections, but vainly, had tried;
Oft had offer'd to make poor Mary his bride,
And his wealth, his possessions display'd.

Her parent had pleaded for Reuben, and long
Had Mary rejected his pleas;
In the woods she would sorrow, and list to the song
Of the nightingale warbling the branches among,
And mournfully sigh to the breeze.

In the bosom of Reuben had jealousy reign'd,
The offspring of love unreturn'd;
Her smiles on her Walter his bleeding heart pain'd,
And madd'ning with fury and rage unrestrain'd,
For vengeance on Mary had burn'd.

One even with Walter, beneath the grove's shade,
When the pale moon-beam stole thro' the boughs,
She reclin'd;....all was still, save the sigh of the maid,
Or the south breeze that rustled.....she felt not afraid,
For she listen'd to hear Walter's vows.

With his vassals, the slaves of his ill-gotten ore,
In the grove Reuben sought out the pair,
Seiz'd on Walter, and m[illegible]ciless, pitiless bore
From the bosom of Mary the youth to the shore,
To a vessel that wa[illegible] him there.

The wild waves and the winds wafted Walter away,
From the scenes of pure, tranquil delight;
While Mary would wander the forest by day,
And pensively love by the sea shore to stray,
While stormy and cold was the night.

Oft as heedlessly wand'ring, poor Mary had stray'd,
O'er the mountain, the heath, or the lawn,
Would Reuben deceitfully tell to the maid,
That her Walter was faithless....her Walter was dead,
Nor thought on the days that were gone.

Yet Mary was listless, as Reuben would tell
That *his* passion was pure as the dew;
Ah! in vain would he strive each fond thought to dispel
From her bosom, of Walter....for Walter too well
Her heart sweetly whisper'd was true.

Yet in sorrow, and oft, would her parent complain
She would bring his grey hairs to the grave,
For the herdsman would sue....oft would keen sorrow feign,
That Mary rejected the hand of the swain,
Oft implore her a parent to save.

Subdued by affection, she griev'd at the sight
Of her sire, feeble, tott'ring, distress'd:
"Thy bosom," she sobb'd, "shall feel cheerful and light;"
And she fix'd, broken hearted, the sorrowful night,
That the herdsman by her should be bless'd.

Five years had roll'd on, since her Walter had fled,
And the night of the wedding was come,
Cheerless, silent and pensive, to church she was led,
O'er the path that with Walter so oft she would tread,
At the altar to seal her sad doom.

As she pass'd up the aisle, "Oh, my Walter!" she sighed,
"Could you feel as poor Mary feels now;
"Could you know with what joy she would now be thy bride;
"What a burden of sorrow her poor heart does hide,
You would pardon to Reuben her vow."

Prophetic and sad was the organ's deep strain
To the maid as it rose on her ear;
Fancy told of the time, as at eve o'er the plain
With her first love she rov'd; when no sorrow, no pain
Had embitter'd life's smiling career.

Busy Mem'ry, kind friend in prosperity's hour,
In adversity ever a foe,
Sketch'd to Mary the rude oaken bench in the bow'r,
Where her heart had acknowledg'd love's soft silken pow'r,....
First was taught all its bliss....all its woe.

Not so fleeting the shadow of April's thin cloud,
As the forms by her mem'ry pourtray'd:
Now the organ was hush'd, at the altar she bow'd,
And the pastor, in accents impressive and loud,
Address'd his discourse to the maid.

Scarce the servant of God had yet utter'd a word,
When the wind howl'd around the old pile,
On the church roof scream'd shrilly the lonely night bird,
And a heart breaking groan, deep and hollow was heard
From the furthermost part of the aisle.

The church it was dark, save the altar around,
No tapers illumin'd the pile;
Again all was silent, and still, and profound,
When Mary faint utter'd, "What groaning, what sound
"That but now floated up the church aisle?"

"'Twas the scream of the screech-owl," the pastor rejoin'd,
"And the night it is stormy and dark,
"Young maiden, dispel every dread from thy mind,
"'Twas the church bell that sounded, as struck by the wind,
"Or the village dog hoarsely did bark."

Hark! another deep groan thro' the church aisle resound!
"Oh, God! save poor Mary," she cried;
When tremblingly shudd'ring, she heard a quick sound
In the aisle, of a hollow step tread on the ground,
And her Walter stood close by her side.

His hair loosely flowing...his eye-balls roll'd round,
And his bar'd bosom heav'd a deep sigh;
"Thou woman," he rav'd, as she sunk on the ground,
"Whom once I thought faithful, now false I have found,
"Pray, pray to thy God, thou shalt die!"

He plung'd to her heart the cold knife....not a sound
From poor Mary escap'd....she scarce sigh'd:
He pierc'd his own bosom, and dropp'd to the ground;
He drank with his cold lips the blood from her wound;
He clasp'd her, he kiss'd her, and died.

Yet as pure as the dew-drop that sits on the flow'r,
The affection that warm'd Mary's breast,
More pure than the Spring breeze, when kiss'd by the show'r,
As pure as the waters of *Jordan*, what hour
Its stream by the *Saviour* was press'd.

To the brink of yon stream, where the willow trees lean
And rustle, as sweeping the grave tops so green,
Not long since, the shepherds would wander at e'en,
To dress with wild roses the spot
Where the graves of poor Mary and Walter were seen:
In the Summer, the long grass was fresh and was green;
The shepherds in winter would sweep the snow clean;
And to shelter their graves from the rains of the Spring,
Would build o'er the spot a rude cot.

ORLANDO.

PRINTED FOR
THE EDITOR & ELIZABETH DICKINS.
PUBLISHED, FOR THE COUNTRY, AT
NO. 25, NORTH SECOND-STREET;
AND, FOR THE CITY, BY
WILLIAM FRY,
NO. 36, CHESNUT-STREET.
FROM THE PRESS OF
HUGH MAXWELL, COLUMBIA-HOUSE.